

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 over USAN 2001/0021019 to Nara et al. Applicants have amended claim 1 and canceled claims 2-5. No new matter is added by the amendments, which are supported by the original disclosure, such as in paragraphs [0028]-[0030] of the specification. Allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

COMMENTS ON ALLOWABILITY OF CLAIM 1

Claim 1 is patentable over Nara et al. because Nara et al. do not describe many of the steps of the method as claimed, including classifying individual defect events into event patterns, comparing event patterns to a list of patterns of interest, comparing identified zones to a list of zones of interest, identifying combinations of (1) patterns of interest on the substrate that (2) reside within zones of interest on the substrate, and specifying at least one substrate defect cause based at least in part on matches between the identified combinations and the predetermined combinations and the associated defect causes. More especially Nara et al. does not describe or make obvious this combination of process steps.

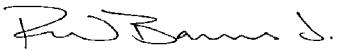
CONCLUSION

Applicants assert that the claims of the present application patentably define over the prior art made of record and not relied upon for the same reasons as given above. Applicants respectfully submit that a full and complete response to the office action is provided herein, and that the application is now fully in condition for allowance. Action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

In the event this response is not timely filed, applicants hereby petition for the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are required by this response, such fees may be charged to deposit account 12-2355.

Sincerely,

LUEDEKA, NEELY & GRAHAM, P.C.

By: 

Rick Barnes, 39,596

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